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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR)

DATE DISTR. 12 Jan 1953

SUBJECT Valsts Elektrotehniska Fabrika (VEF - The Govern-
ment's Electro-technical Factory) in Riga

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The dimensions of the Valsts Elektrotehniska Fabrika (VEF -- the governmental electro-technical factory) in Riga were (in 1947) approximately 2000 X 2000 m. Prior to the Soviet occupation (in 1944) the factory produced mainly radios, electric bulbs, photographic equipment (cameras, including the Minox), flashlights, batteries, and in addition, the plant had a silver plating department.
2. After the Soviet occupation (1944) the plant was incorporated into the Soviet system and converted solely to the production of radios. Every other type of production was discontinued. This was still the case in 1947 [redacted]
3. In 1941, during the first Soviet occupation, the Soviets made a very grave blunder. They decided to undertake production of some very expensive and highly complicated control apparatus for checking radios, so they obtained the necessary blueprints and material, only to find, when the time came for assembling the apparatus, that there were no specialists who could do the work. All the skilled Latvian technicians had been either killed or deported. So all the material simply went to waste.

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